

***Information Disclosure Statement***

The German Document DE3310385 A1 has not been considered as it has not been listed on a new form 1449 accompanying the explanation of relevance provided in Applicant's Remarks filed 12/18/08. Also note that a fee for a newly submitted IDS is required. Refer to MPEP 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Dan Hopper on 1/16/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, line 2, --the device-- has been inserted before "having".

In claim 1, line 3, "having" has been deleted.

In claim 1, line 4, "having" has been deleted.

In claim 8, line 2, the third instance of "the" has been deleted.

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not disclose, singly or in combination, a device for sealingly linking two end pieces of a fluid line system as claimed in detail in claim 1.

Particularly, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest at least the following limitations "a sealing unit that is surrounded by the casing part and is set up for the mutual sealing of the end pieces", "the inner part (13) is supported inside the casing part (1) in an axially displaceable manner and can be expelled via the first introduction area (2)", "configured inside the casing part (1) between the first introduction area (2) and the second introduction area (3) is an abutment (12) with which the sealing unit (21), starting from an arrangement fixed with the inner part (13), comes into engagement by means of an axial movement of the inner part (13) from the second introduction area (3) towards the first introduction area (2)" and "the inner part (13) exhibits a contact surface (20) which, when an end piece (25) is introduced into the second introduction area (3), comes into engagement with this end piece (25) so that the inner part (13) is displaced towards the first introduction area (2), thus releasing the sealing unit (21), and can be removed from the casing part (1)."

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES M. HEWITT whose telephone number is (571)272-7084.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/James M Hewitt/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3679